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Van Woerkom Introduces Bill to Update Drain Code

LANSING – Senator Gerald Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores, today introduced legislation to update the Michigan Drain Code.

“Michigan has not updated the Drain Code since 1956,” Van Woerkom said. “We have learned a great deal about ground water usage since 1956, and I believe that now is the right time to update the code.”

Senate Bill 217 would make several changes regarding the process for initiating, maintaining and paying for drains, and also would make technical revisions to the Drain Code.

Van Woerkom’s bill is based on a bill to amend the Drain Code introduced in 1999, which was supported by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and the Michigan Farm Bureau. The bill was passed by the House of Representatives, but stalled in the Senate.

SB 217 has been sent to the Senate Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism Committee for consideration. Van Woerkom is the Chair of the committee, and expects to begin hearings on SB 217 in the spring.

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